

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel claims 1 – 35 and add new claims 36 – 90.

36. An isolated antibody, or an antigen-binding portion thereof, that specifically binds human IL-1 β , wherein said antibody is comprised of a light chain and a heavy chain and wherein:

(a) said light chain is comprised of a light chain CDR1 selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS: 1, 12, 22, 29, 31, 33, 37, or 39; a light chain CDR2 of SEQ ID NO:2; and, a light chain CDR3 selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS: 3,7, 13, 15, 17, 20, 25, 34, or 41; and,

(b) said heavy chain is comprised of a heavy chain CDR1 selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS: 4 or 10; a heavy chain CDR2 sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS: 8, 16, 18, 21, 23, or 28; and a heavy chain CDR3 selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS: 9, 11, 14, 19, 24, 26, 27, 30, 32, 35, 36, 38, 40, or 42.

37. The isolated antibody, or antigen-binding portion thereof, of Claim 36 which is a humanized antibody.

38. An isolated antibody, or antigen-binding portion thereof, wherein said antibody comprises:

- a) a light chain CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 39;
- b) a light chain CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2;
- c) a light chain CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 41;
- d) a heavy chain CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 10;
- e) a heavy chain CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21;
- and,
- f) a heavy chain CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 38.

39. The antibody of Claim 38 wherein said antibody comprises a heavy chain encoded by the amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 47 and a light chain encoded by the amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 48.

40. The antibody of Claim 38 wherein said antibody comprises a heavy chain encoded by the amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 68 and a light chain encoded by the amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 48.

41. An isolated antibody, or antigen-binding portion thereof, wherein said antibody comprises:

- a) a light chain CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 37;
- b) a light chain CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2;
- c) a light chain CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 15;
- d) a heavy chain CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 10;
- e) a heavy chain CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21;
- and,
- f) a heavy chain CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 35.

42. The antibody of Claim 41 wherein said antibody comprises a heavy chain encoded by the amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 45 and a light chain encoded by the amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 46.

43. An isolated antibody, or antigen-binding portion thereof, wherein said antibody comprises:

- a) a light chain CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 39;
- b) a light chain CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2;
- c) a light chain CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 17;
- d) a heavy chain CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 10;
- e) a heavy chain CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 16;
- and,
- f) a heavy chain CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 36.

44. The antibody of Claim 43 wherein said antibody comprises a heavy chain encoded by the amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 49 and a light chain encoded by the amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 50.

45. An isolated antibody, or antigen-binding portion thereof, wherein said antibody comprises:

- a) a light chain CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 39;
- b) a light chain CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2;
- c) a light chain CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 17;
- d) a heavy chain CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 10;
- e) a heavy chain CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21;
- and,
- f) a heavy chain CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 35.

46. The antibody of Claim 45 wherein said antibody comprises a heavy chain encoded by the amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 51 and a light chain encoded by the amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 52.

47. An isolated antibody, or antigen-binding portion thereof, wherein said antibody comprises:

- a) a light chain CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 29;
- b) a light chain CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2;
- c) a light chain CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 17;
- d) a heavy chain CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 10;
- e) a heavy chain CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21;
- and,
- f) a heavy chain CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 30.

48. The antibody of Claim 47 wherein said antibody comprises a heavy chain encoded by the amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 53 and a light chain encoded by the amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 54.

49. An isolated nucleic acid comprising a polynucleotide encoding the antibody or antigen binding portion thereof, of Claim 36.

50. An expression vector comprising a nucleic acid according to Claim 49.
51. A host cell stably transfected with the expression vector of Claim 50.
52. A process for producing an antibody or antigen binding portion thereof, comprising cultivating the host cell of Claim 51 and recovering the polypeptide encoded by said polynucleotide from the culture.
53. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the antibody or antigen binding portion thereof of Claim 36.
54. A method of treating rheumatoid arthritis or osteoarthritis, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of the antibody or antigen binding portion thereof, of Claim 36.
55. An isolated nucleic acid, comprising a polynucleotide encoding the antibody or antigen binding portion thereof, of Claim 39.
56. An expression vector comprising a nucleic acid according to Claim 55.
57. A host cell stably transfected with the expression vector of Claim 56.
58. A process for producing an antibody or antigen binding portion thereof, comprising cultivating the host cell of Claim 57 and recovering the polypeptide encoded by said polynucleotide from the culture.
59. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the antibody or antigen binding portion thereof of Claim 39.
60. A method of treating rheumatoid arthritis or osteoarthritis, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of the antibody or antigen binding portion thereof, of Claim 39.

61. An isolated nucleic acid, comprising a polynucleotide encoding the antibody or antigen binding portion thereof, of Claim 40.

62. An expression vector comprising a nucleic acid according to Claim 61.

63. A host cell stably transfected with the expression vector of Claim 62.

64. A process for producing an antibody or antigen binding portion thereof, comprising cultivating the host cell of Claim 63 and recovering the polypeptide encoded by said polynucleotide from the culture.

65. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the antibody or antigen binding portion thereof of Claim 40.

66. A method of treating rheumatoid arthritis or osteoarthritis, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of the antibody or antigen binding portion thereof, of Claim 40.

67. An isolated nucleic acid, comprising a polynucleotide encoding the antibody or antigen binding portion thereof, of Claim 42.

68. An expression vector comprising a nucleic acid according to Claim 67.

69. A host cell stably transfected with the expression vector of Claim 68.

70. A process for producing an antibody or antigen binding portion thereof, comprising cultivating the host cell of Claim 69 and recovering the polypeptide encoded by said polynucleotide from the culture.

71. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the antibody or antigen binding portion thereof of Claim 42.

72. A method of treating rheumatoid arthritis or osteoarthritis, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of the antibody or antigen binding portion thereof, of Claim 42.

73. An isolated nucleic acid, comprising a polynucleotide encoding the antibody or antigen binding portion thereof, of Claim 44.

74. An expression vector comprising a nucleic acid according to Claim 73.

75. A host cell stably transfected with the expression vector of Claim 74.

76. A process for producing an antibody or antigen binding portion thereof, comprising cultivating the host cell of Claim 75 and recovering the polypeptide encoded by said polynucleotide from the culture.

77. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the antibody or antigen binding portion thereof of Claim 44.

78. A method of treating rheumatoid arthritis or osteoarthritis, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of the antibody or antigen binding portion thereof, of Claim 44.

79. An isolated nucleic acid, comprising a polynucleotide encoding the antibody or antigen binding portion thereof, of Claim 46.

80. An expression vector comprising a nucleic acid according to Claim 79.

81. A host cell stably transfected with the expression vector of Claim 80.

82. A process for producing an antibody or antigen binding portion thereof, comprising cultivating the host cell of Claim 81 and recovering the polypeptide encoded by said polynucleotide from the culture.

83. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the antibody or antigen binding portion thereof of Claim 46.

84. A method of treating rheumatoid arthritis or osteoarthritis, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of the antibody or antigen binding portion thereof, of Claim 46.

85. An isolated nucleic acid, comprising a polynucleotide encoding the antibody or antigen binding portion thereof, of Claim 48.

86. An expression vector comprising a nucleic acid according to Claim 85.

87. A host cell stably transfected with the expression vector of Claim 86.

88. A process for producing an antibody or antigen binding portion thereof, comprising cultivating the host cell of Claim 87 and recovering the polypeptide encoded by said polynucleotide from the culture.

89. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the antibody or antigen binding portion thereof of Claim 48.

90. A method of treating rheumatoid arthritis or osteoarthritis, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of the antibody or antigen binding portion thereof, of Claim 48.